Excavation of a Romano-British Settlement at Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe, North Somerset

INTERIM REPORT, 1966–1967

By
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SUMMARY

A $3\frac{1}{2}$ acre settlement of as many as twelve stone-walled enclosures dates to the late 3rd-mid 4th centuries A.D. and is associated with contemporary fields. It overlies occupation material of three earlier periods. The Iron Age and Romano-British pottery is treated in detail.

INTRODUCTION

Butcombe is one of several adjacent parishes currently being thoroughly examined.* The long and round barrows in the area are well-known, but the archæological interest of the area for later periods has hitherto hardly been appreciated (Tratman, 1935, and Rahtz, 1958, report earlier work), particularly in relation to land-use and settlement patterns in the 1st millennium A.D. The general picture of north Somerset in the Romano-British period is well-recorded (Cunliffe, 1966, and *Fig.* 51B), but much remains to be learnt about the contemporary fields and non-villa settlements. In the Butcombe area are extensive remains of both fields and settlements, hitherto not closely, or wrongly, dated (*Fig.* 51C and D), and it was to tackle the problem they represent that excavation on Row of Ashes Farm began in 1966.† It must be stressed, however, that the limited excavation so far is only one part of a larger project inspired

* The adjacent parishes of Congresbury, Wrington, Blagdon, Butcombe and Nempnett Thrubwell are being studied, archæologically and documentarily, as a block by students of the Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, Bristol University, under the general direction of Mrs. F. Neale and the writer. The main object is to demonstrate the changing patterns of settlement and land-use since prehistoric times.

† The excavation is being carried out by the Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, Bristol University, in association with the Bristol Archæological Research Group, under the direction of the writer assisted by Mrs. F. Neale and C. Browne. The site was going to be ploughed in 1965, but this has now been postponed and part of it is currently leased and fenced off by the Dept. Finds from the excavation will be deposited at Bristol City Museum.

by similar studies elsewhere (Finberg, 1959; Fowler, 1967; Taylor, 1967).

Limitations of space here prevent more than a brief review of the excavation, particularly as it is thought desirable to publish now the results of microscopic examination of the pottery, results which comprise the greater part of this paper. Flints, stone artefacts, coins, and animal bones are also fully treated, but iron and bronze objects are selectively described. Completely omitted are building materials, geologically complex; glass, lead, coal, charcoal and bonework, all present but in small amounts; and, more importantly, the slags, of which there are several pounds, and the considerable amount of detailed work already in typescript on the geology and minerals of the site and on the documentary history of the area as a whole.

The Settlement in Westmead, Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe (*Fig.* 52)

The site (ST 60846297) occupies the southern edge of a slightly sloping plateau of Carboniferous (Hotwells) Limestone with Dolomitic Conglomerate immediately to the east. To east and west are north-south re-entrants, while immediately south is a scarp with outcropping rock. Associated fields are adjacent on both east and west, with a trackway between settlement and field edge on the east. The Lye Hole Roman villa lies *c.* ½ mile S.S.W. (Tratman, 1960) and the earthworks of another settlement are less than ½ mile to the west (*Fig.* 51C).

Superficially, the site consists of nine small irregular enclosures forming a compact unit with an entrance on the north, separated from two, possibly three, further enclosures on the south by a trackway which probably linked with that on the east of the settlement as they both dropped into the re-entrant. The enclosures are defined by grass-covered banks, now known to be collapsed walls (below p. 213). The form and interpretation of the visible settlement remains, based on detailed ground survey and limited excavation, should be apparent from *Plate* 34A and *Fig.* 52 without further description.

Before excavation it appeared that here was a well-defined and compact settlement with several distinct characteristics, suggesting a connection with stock-farming because of its multiple enclosures apparently without buildings, and more certainly connected with arable farming in view of its associated fields. The overall size, together with the probable existence of at least three, perhaps five, buildings indicated that the settlement was a farm rather than a larger communal settlement, and the form pointed to "native" rather than Roman inspiration. The only known dating evidence from the site was part of a rotary quern and a few sherds of Romano-British pottery.

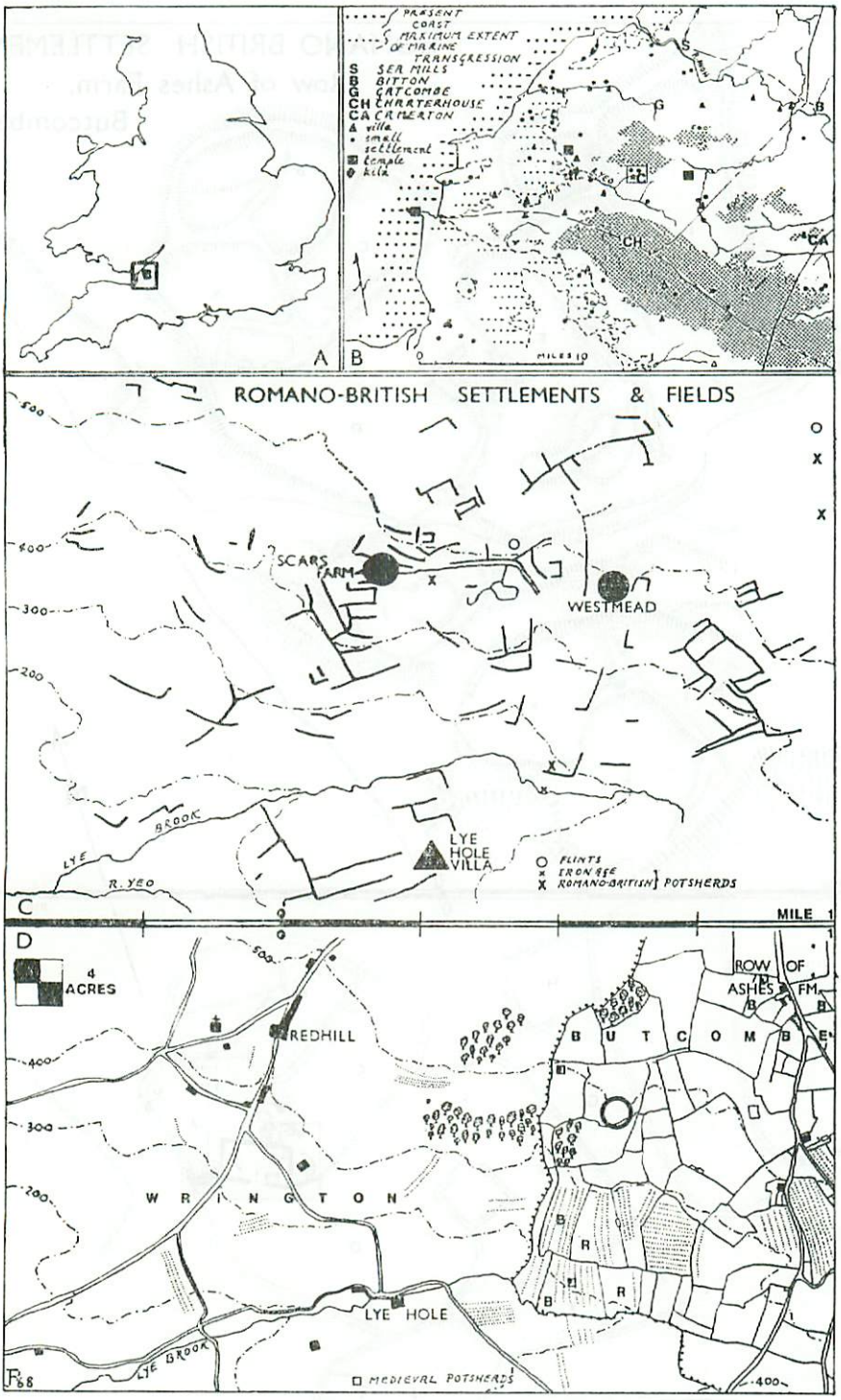

Fig. 51. Location, distribution, archæological and historical maps, showing (*B*) the Butcombe area in relation to the main Romano-British sites in N. Somerset and to the postulated marine transgression of the later Roman period (after Cunliffe, 1966, with additions); (*C*) the Butcombe area with findspots of pre-historic material, Romano-British settlements and the contemporary field system; and (*D*) almost exactly the same area with the modern setting, the Butcombe field boundaries from the Tithe Map (1843), and the earthwork remains of strip cultivation (dotted lines). The letters "B" and "R" indicate extra-parochial fields of Blagdon and Regilbury respectively.

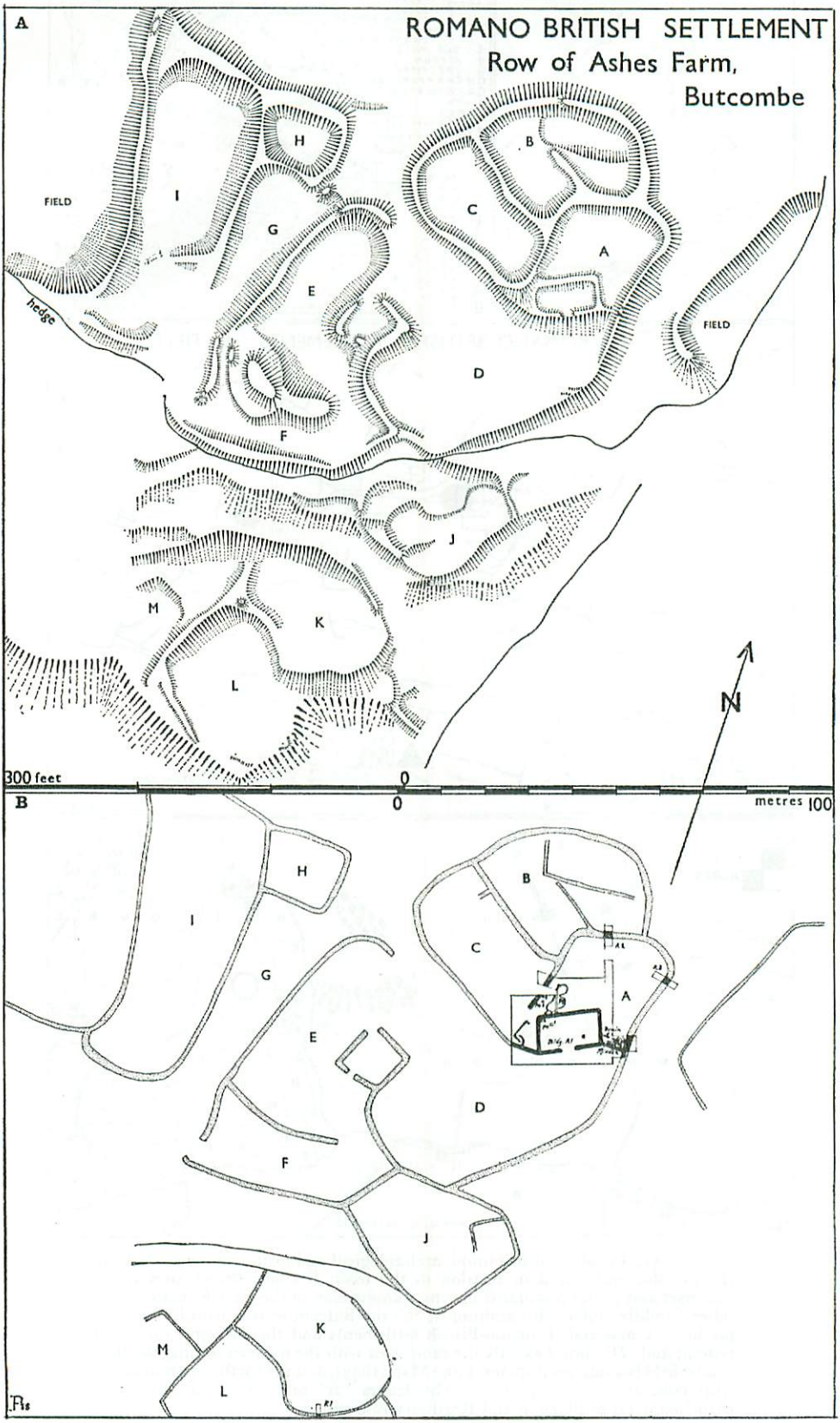

Fig. 52. Plan of the Romano-British settlement in Westmead, Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe: (*A*) the "earthworks" before excavation; (*B*) the main excavated structures and other features and a tentative reconstruction of the plan of the site in its stone-walled phase (late 3rd/mid 4th centuries A.D.).

The Excavation (*Figs.* 52–4, *Plates* 34, 35)

Two periods of a fortnight each have been spent excavating. In 1966, Building A1 was almost completely exposed using a developed quadrant system of excavation. Trial cuts were also made in the middle of Enclosure A and across its northern boundary, and across the south side of Enclosure K. In 1967, realising that the continued excavation of visible surface features was unjustified, areas west and north of Building A1 were stripped and points on the east of Enclosure A were examined.

In all cuttings so far, the topsoil is thin (*c.* 15 cms. or less) and either

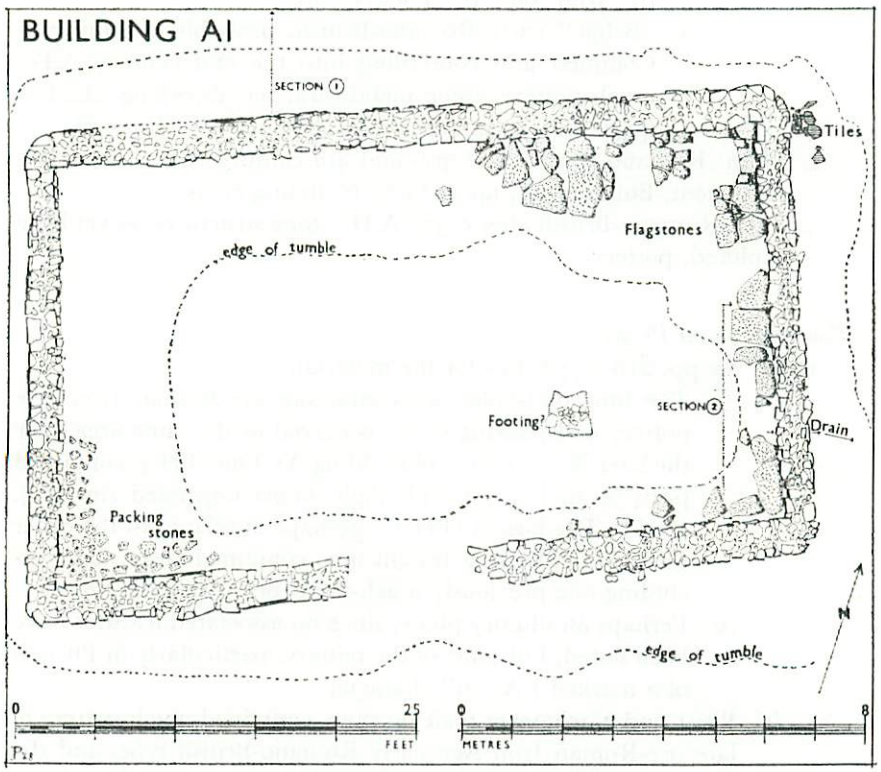

Fig. 53. Plan of Building AI.

archæological features or the bedrock quickly appear. The turf has therefore been removed as thinly as possible and stone features exposed in their final collapsed condition. The whole of Building A1 was thus exposed before any stones were removed, and this collapsed building provides a clear horizon for much of the excavation so far. For convenience, the evidence can be described under three headings, "Early", "Main" and

"Late" occupations, corresponding to provenances earlier than contemporary with, and later than Building A1.

Summary of Phases

1. Early: (*a*) Neolithic/Bronze Age: axe fragments, flints, no structures.
   (*b*) Pre-Roman Iron Age:
      (i) Iron Age "A": small amount of pottery, four post holes (*Fig.* 52B).
      (ii) Iron Age "B": pottery only.
   (*c*) "Belgic"/early Romano-British, probably starting pre-Conquest and continuing into the 2nd century A.D.: much pottery, some metalwork, metalworking, shallow quarrying, revetment on W. side of Pit 1 (*Fig.* 52B).
2. Main: Romano-British, late 3rd–mid 4th century A.D.: the visible settlement, Building A1, many finds, including coins.
3. Late: Romano-British after *c.* 350 A.D.: stone structures, as yet little explored, pottery.

Comments on the Phases

1. (*a*) *See* pp. 218–234 below for the material.
   (*b*) (i) The four post-holes, all containing pre-Roman Iron Age pottery and packing stones occurred in the same area near the later N.-W. corner of Building A1. One (PH 4) contained parts of an I.A. jar with slight finger-impressed rim (*Fig.* 57, I). The largest (PH 1), perhaps unrelated to the other three which form a straight line, contained large stones including one previously much-used (below p. 218, No. 2).
   (ii) Perhaps an illusory phase, since no associated features have been noted; but some of the pottery, particularly in Pit 1, is of a marked I.A. "B" character.
   (*c*) Pits 1 and 2, whatever their purpose, contained much pottery of late pre-Roman Iron Age/early Romano-British type, and the large amount of slag in Pit 1 especially indicates metal-working. A few pieces of metal-work suggest "Belgic" and mid-1st century A.D. occupation, while the bow brooches and samian ware, however fragmentary the latter, suggest occupation continuing into the mid-2nd century A.D. The two chronological problems, basic to interpretation of the history of the site but at present unresolved, are whether the settlement was in existence at the time of the Conquest and whether it continued throughout the

PLATE 34A

Oblique air photograph looking south over the Westmead settlement, Butcombe.

(*Photograph: P. J. Fowler*)

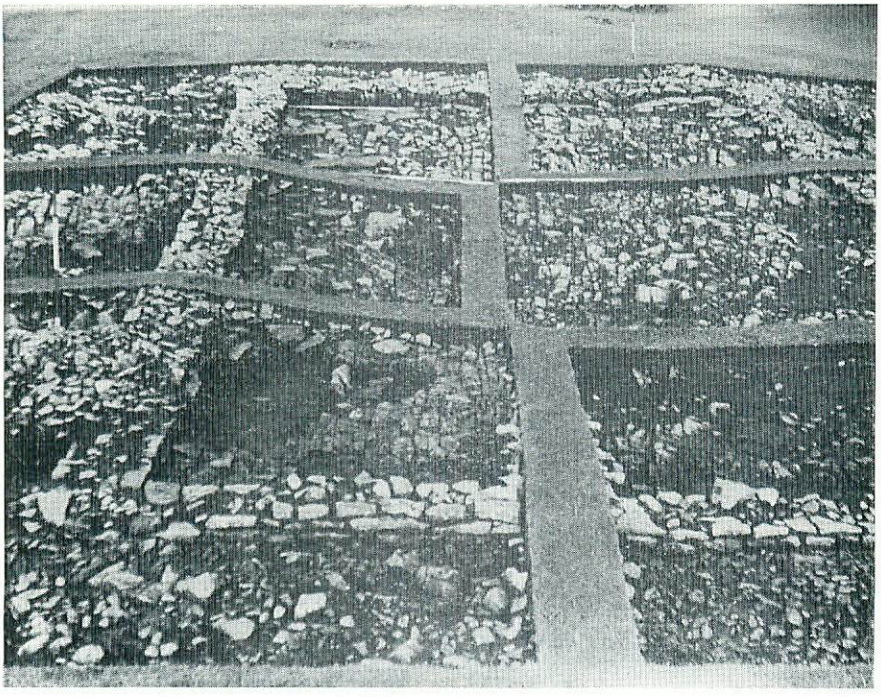

PLATE 34B

Building A1 from the west, showing the method of excavation and the structural remains after removal of the wall tumble. Pit 1 is marked by the l.h. pole which, like the others, is 2 metres long.

(*Photograph: P. J. Fowler*)

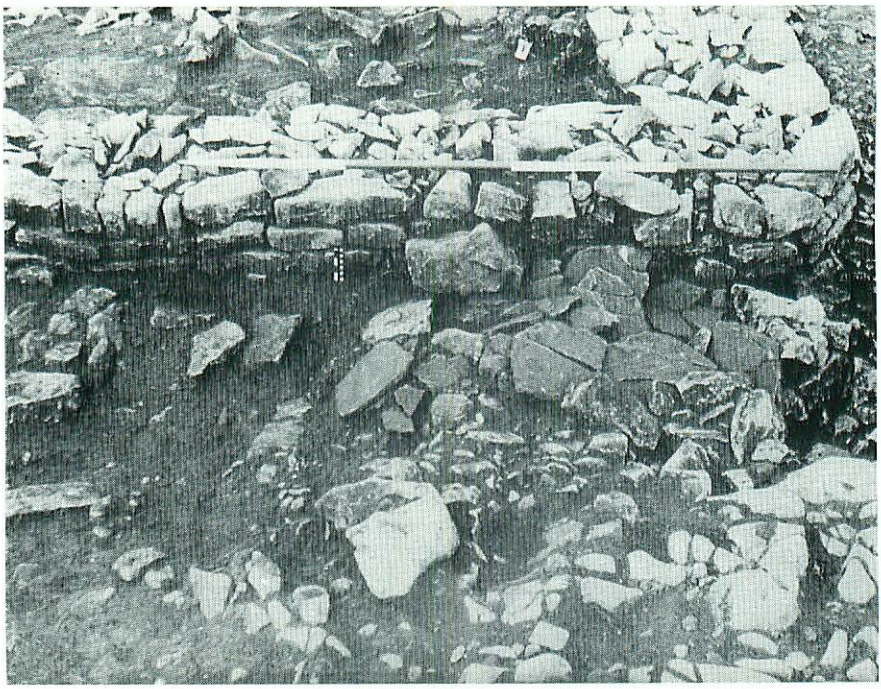

PLATE 35A

The N.E. corner of Building AI from the E. showing its rounded external structure and the tile roughouts beside it. 2 metre scale.

(Photograph: P. J. Fowler)

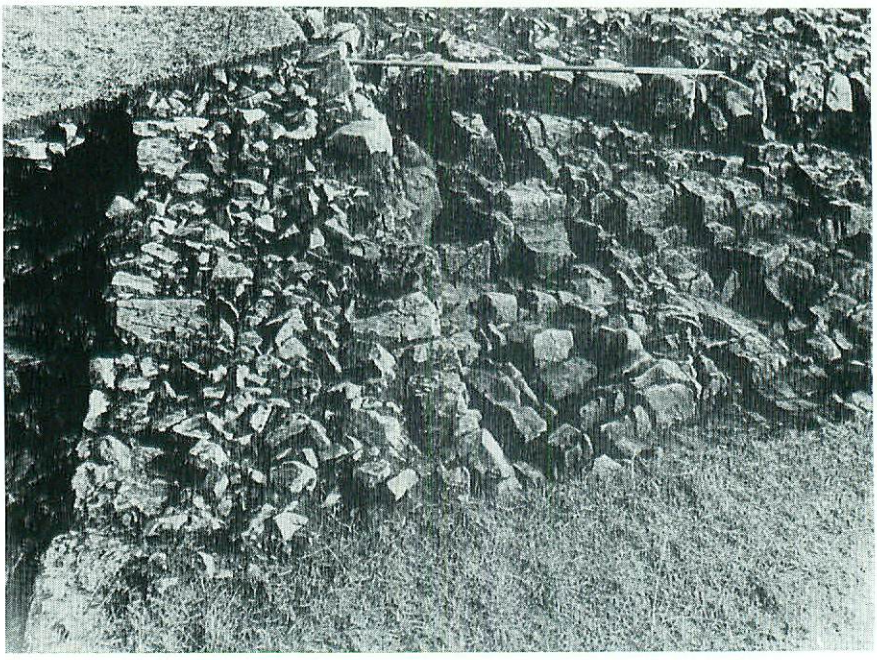

PLATE 35B

The wall of Enclosure A from the N. at its junction with wall 3 east of Building AI. The nature of the Carboniferous Limestone bedrock, here partly quarried, can be clearly seen. 2 metre scale.

(Photograph: P. J. Fowler)

2nd and 3rd centuries to make a continuum with Phase 2. Disregarding the true pre-Roman Iron Age material, which surely indicates some sort of earlier settlement, none of the "Belgic" material need necessarily be pre-43 A.D. on this site though, if it is not, then occupation must begin at about that date. At the other end of this phase, it is very difficult to place any material in the century *c.* 150–250 A.D. and indeed so far the impression is that the people of the "Main" phase were unaware of the earlier occupations. At the moment, therefore, the hypothesis is that the site was deserted during this period.

2. The settlement as illustrated on *Fig.* 52 and Building A1 (*Fig.* 53) belong to this Phase, well-dated by coins between *c.* 270–345 A.D. (below p. 229) and, more generally, by pottery and other material. Building A1, only approximately rectangular with a near-central entrance in its south wall, measured 14 m. by 8 m. (*c.* 45 ft. by 25 ft.). Its walls were of coursed and weathered uncut limestone blocks, unmortared and infilled with rubble and soil (*Fig.* 54, 2) and rounded externally on the corners (*Plate* 35A). Up to four courses remained at the N.-E. corner, while on the south only one course remained in places. The spread of tumble on both sides of the walls (*Fig.* 53) suggested that they had never been very high, even allowing for the probability that many facing stones have been robbed, and it seems likely that the "walls" are really wall-footings for a timber-framed building. A small pile of Pennant sandstone tile rough-outs lay outside the N.-E. corner (*Fig.* 53, *Plate* 35A).

The flag-stone floor only survived in part where covered by the tumble: that even here it was incomplete suggested that some flag-stones were removed in antiquity. Around the north and east sides, sufficient remained to establish that the floor of large stones shown on *Fig.* 53 had replaced an earlier floor of smaller stones. In both cases, a variety of stones, all local but excluding Carboniferous Limestone, had been used. Limestone blocks had, however, been used as packing stones beneath the floors and still remained, notably in the S.-W. corner. Removal of the floors presumably also removed internal features which were entirely absent except for a rectangular rock-cut depression in the S.-E. quarter. Packed with small stones, it may have been the base for the footing of an aisle post: a building of this width would normally have been aisled. Internal structural evidence for the building's use was not available, but the width and position of the entrance, the drain beneath the east wall, and a tethering ring (*Fig.* 56, 9) immediately above the floor in wall-collapse inside the north wall strongly suggest it was a byre.

The building opened into Enclosure D and formed most of one side of Enclosure A (the entrance to which has not been found), the south side

being completed by a short length of wall between the building's S.-E. corner and the main enclosure wall. This last, examined in five places, was 1.5 m. (*c.* 5 ft.) thick (*Plate* 35B, *Fig.* 54, 3), though only surviving 3 courses high on the east. Like the other stone structures, its facing stones had been robbed and west of Building A1 only the basal course remained *in situ*. The "wall" on the south side of Enclosure K was much less substantial (*Fig.* 54, 4).

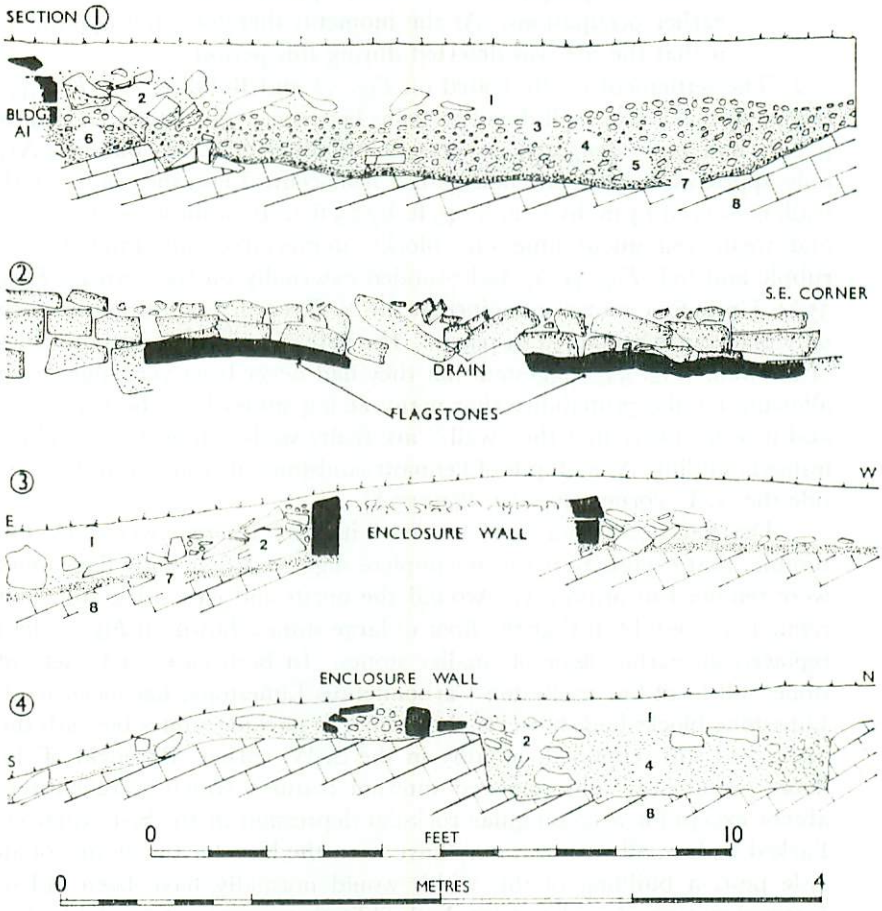

Fig. 54. Excavated sections: 1, north from N. wall of Building AI across Pit 1 (c.f. *Figs.* 52B and 53); 2, "elevation" of the inside face of the S. half of the E. wall of Building AI; 3, through the wall of Enclosure A in cutting 3 (c.f. *Fig.* 52B); 4, through the wall of Enclosure K (c.f. *Fig.* 52B).

Layer key: 1, topsoil; 2, tumble of soil and stones; 3, soil and small stones; 4, dark soil; 5, brown soil with slag and unweathered limestone; 6, brown soil with small limestone lumps; 7, buried soil (old land surface in section 3); 8, Carboniferous Limestone bedrock showing approximate angle of bedding plane.

3. An occupation after the collapse of Building A1 is indicated by both the amount of material over the collapsed walls, the robbing of the building itself, and the as yet incompletely examined complex of stone features outside its west wall. Only the main ones are shown on *Fig.* 52B, the most significant perhaps being the semi-circular kerb (a small threshing floor?)

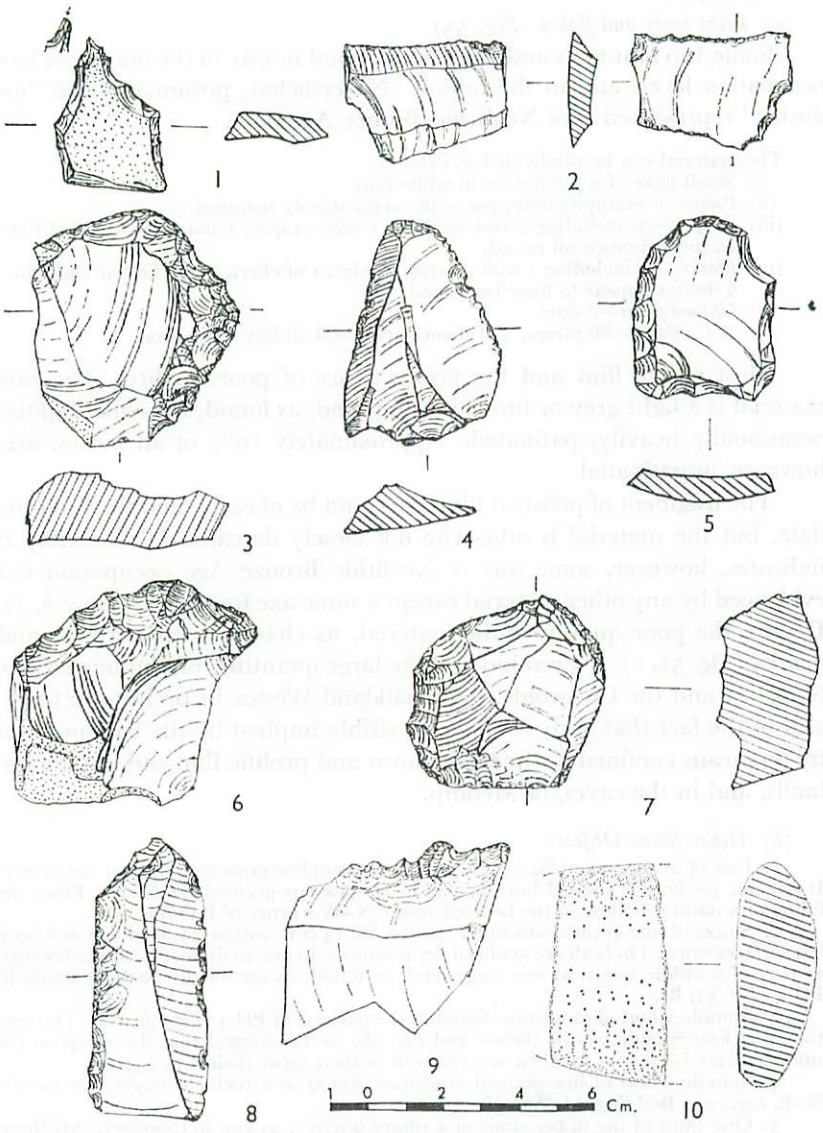

Fig. 55. Flints, and stone axe fragment (all 1/1 except No. 10 which is $\frac{1}{2}$).

overlying both a rectangular feature and the robbed wall running west from the S.-W. corner of Building A1. It seems that during this late occupation enclosures A and C had been abandoned as such.

THE MATERIAL

I. *Stone Objects*

(*a*) *Flint tools and flakes* (*Fig.* 55)

Some 120 flint tools and flakes were found mostly in the main and late occupation levels and in the topsoil. Nevertheless, presumably the "industry" represented is of Neolithic/Bronze Age date.

The material can be subdivided as follows:—

(i) Small flake of a *polished axe* in white flint.
(ii) *Points*—2 examples only, one with cortex steeply trimmed.
(iii) *Scrapers*—7, including 2 end scrapers, 1 side scraper, 1 horse-shoe-shaped flake scraper trimmed all round.
(iv) *Blades*—14 including 1 with a serrated edge, 1 of chert, and 4 bulbar ends only. 3 do not appear to have been used.
(v) *Utilised flakes*—6 only.
(vi) *Waste flakes*—86 pieces, 7 of them burnt, and all but a few small.

Most of the flint and the products are of poor quality. The raw material is a light grey or brownish flint, and, as found, is usually lightly, occasionally heavily, patinated. Approximately 10% of all pieces, are, however, unpatinated.

The fragment of polished flint axe could be of early/middle Neolithic date, but the material is otherwise not closely dateable. Presumably it indicates, however, some sort of Neolithic/Bronze Age occupation not evidenced by any other material except a stone axe fragment (below *b*, 1). Despite the poor quality of the material, its chance discovery here and nearby (*Fig.* 51, c), is a reminder of the large quantities of flint moved into Somerset and the Cotswolds from chalkland Wessex in prehistoric times, and of the fact that early settlement, visibly implied by the barrows, was by no means confined to the well-known and prolific flint sites on the uplands, and in the caves, of Mendip.

(*b*) *Other Stone Objects*

1. Part of a stone axe (*Fig.* 55, 10) giving a complete cross-section near the centre. It has not yet been sectioned but appears to be of a fine-grained sandstone. From the filling of a natural hollow in the bedrock inside N.-W. corner of Building A1.

2. Stone, of fine-grained sandstone, 20 cm. by 13 cm., with a rounded end and both flat surfaces worn. On both are artificial depressions *c.* 10 cm. in diameter. Probably used as part of a saddle quern at one stage, and, as found, as one of the packing stones in PH 1 (*Fig.* 52, B).

3. Spindle-whorl of sandstone, found in the packing of PH 4 (*Fig.* 56, 12). This and the other four spindle whorls (below and *Fig.* 56, 10–14) suggest that the sheep on the site may have been kept for their wool as well as their meat (below p. 234).

4. Spindle whorl of fine-grained sandstone, found in a rock-cut depression outside N.-E. corner of Building A1 (*Fig.* 56, 14).

5. One third of the upper stone of a rotary quern *c.* 44 cm. in diameter. Medium-coarse sandstone. In the tumble from the N. wall inside Building A1.

6. Half of upper stone of a rotary quern of Old Red Sandstone with conglomerate grains up to 0.5 cm. across. Under the tumble from S. wall of Building AI.

7. Part of lower stone of a rotary quern, of fine-grained sandstone (ORS?), with diagonal grooves on upper surface. In tumble outside E. wall of Building AI.

8. 5 whetstones of fine-grained sandstone, all belonging to the main or late occupations.

9. L-shaped piece of very weathered oolitic limestone, perhaps part of a gutter or drain (c.f. Barton, 1964, *Fig.* 10, 34). On bedrock outside S. wall of Building AI.

II. *Shale*

Two spindle whorls (*Fig.* 56, 10 and 11), one immediately above the paving below the inner face of the E. wall of Building AI, the other in a crevice in the bedrock inside the N.W. corner of Building AI.

III. *Fired Clay*

One broken spindle whorl (*Fig.* 6, 13) from below the lower cobble layer outside the N.-W. corner of Building AI.

IV. *Pottery*

About 8,000 sherds have been found so far. Of these approximately 1,150 were too small (2 cm. and less) for present purposes and have been discarded. They are excluded from the following analysis and discussion, which is based on the retained and much-sorted total of 6,850 potsherds.

Four factors influenced the approach to the pottery from what was expected to be a prolific site. Firstly, a large amount of relevant pottery has been excavated from the Chew Valley Lake (CVL) sites, producing in particular a type series of *fabrics* and *forms*. Use has been made here of the CVL typescript and material in Bristol City Museum. Secondly, although some reasonably well-dated pottery had been recovered locally and recently published (Rahtz and Harris, 1957; Barton, 1964; ApSimon, 1965), there seemed in 1965 still a lot to be learnt about local fabrics and forms, their sources, distribution and date (Cunliffe, 1967, is a major advance on the last point). Thirdly, since the Butcombe excavation was in part for training purposes, a comprehensible system of sorting a lot of pottery was required, and while beginners may not immediately be able to reconstruct the *form* of complete pots, the *fabric* is, in theory anyway, a readily recognisable characteristic. Fourthly, it was hoped that by concentrating on the mineral content of the fabric, the study of local Iron Age and Romano-British coarse pottery might be advanced.

It was therefore decided from the outset to consolidate the pottery finds after washing and marking, and to sort them, regardless of form, colour and provenance, into a growing number of *type fabrics* (TFs) as the excavation proceeded. As a result, after much subsequent re-sorting, a complete picture of the types of fabric, their distribution on the site, and their relative dates has been obtained. Fortunately, the part of the site so far excavated is reasonably stratified (above, p. 214) so that, even though disturbance by successive occupations, by robbing and by animals has occurred, the occurrences of "late" fabrics in "early" deposits and *vice*

versa can at least be seen in statistical perspective. In fact, the method seems to work, the main flaw at the moment being that far more of the "main" occupation area has been excavated than of the "early" and "late" occupations. This known imbalance can, however, be taken into account when assessing archæologically the chronological distribution of the fabrics on the site.

Three advantages of this approach are, firstly, that the material is sorted "objectively" without taking account of any pre-conceived ideas of which pottery is "early" or "late"; secondly, the process can be checked at any stage and re-sorting carried out as refinements of the type series become necessary (the bulk of the pottery here described has been sorted five times); and thirdly, the results obtained by *macroscopic* examination can not only be checked by *microscopic* study, but also the sorting by fabric straightaway provides a mass of material ready for analysis by various micro-methods. And such study is not simply a check on macroscopic distinctions, real or imaginary, since it also produces new information.

The value of thin-sectioning prehistoric material is already well-established, and recent work by Dr. Peacock has demonstrated that such analysis can be of particular relevance to understanding of late-prehistoric and post-Roman pottery. It therefore seemed worth examining Romano-British pottery in the same way, and to this end 41 specimens from the Butcombe type fabric series were both thin-sectioned and x-ray photographed. The results of the thin-sectioning only are incorporated in the following descriptions of the 32 pottery fabrics which cover the 6,850 sherds from the site. These results represent co-operation but not collusion: the original descriptions of the fabrics from macroscopic examination stand unaltered, and the microscopic descriptions have been made independently without knowledge of the significance of the individual sherds sampled. Overall, the correlation is satisfactory.

It is too early to move on from the analytical stage of the pottery examination to an assessment of where the fabrics, the clays or the mineral inclusions originated, or to consider the distribution of the various fabric types in the Bristol area and further afield. Clearly much work must first be done on both the micro-examination of local clays and the macro-examination of local Romano-British pottery collections—a daunting task, though duplicate sets of fabric type series are available to anyone willing to work through their own or museum collections from this point of view.

Overall, the evidence suggests that much of the pottery was of local origin, and in particular that most of the grey ware probably came from Congresbury, only 4 miles west of the excavation (Usher and Lilly, 1964; below p. 223). TFs VII-XI seem the most likely candidates for this source

and, on archæological as much as mineralogical grounds, TF XXVI may have been manufactured there too. None of the mineralogical evidence proves a distant origin for any of the fabrics, though some, particularly the Iron Age fabrics, may well have been manufactured further away than Congresbury. TFs XXII and XXV (the latter looks very similar to the fabric of the few remaining sherds from the local kiln in Shepton Mallet museum), for example, were probably not manufactured in the immediate locality, and other possibilities for further consideration from this point of view are TFs III-VI, XVII, XVIII, XIX and XXI. Micro-analysis apart, presumably TFs XXIX, XXX, XXXII and probably XXXI (respectively samian, imitation samian, colour-coated ware, and mortaria) are of non-local manufacture, though the fact that together they comprise only *c.* 2% of the total number of sherds on the site is probably the significant point.

Although colour was largely disregarded in the original sorting, it has subsequently appeared that in many cases changes in fabric correlate with colour variations. The list has therefore now been arranged with reference to the immediate and superficial appearance of the sherds. Similarly, although no attempt was made to date the pottery during sorting, subsequent reference to associations of and forms in each of the type fabrics has brought out some chronological differences. The numbering of the fabrics is, therefore, now so arranged that the early, hand-made wares come at the beginning (TF II has subsequently appeared to be mainly a late-Roman fabric!) and four common types of Romano-British pottery at the end.

THE TYPE SERIES OF POTTERY FABRICS

The type fabrics (TF) are described as follows: macroscopic description, ending with note of forms represented; microscopic description(s) from thin-section(s), particularly distinctive fabrics being starred—*; archæological comments, beginning with four numbers, all percentages, the first three being the proportions of the fabric in early, middle and late contexts (above p. 219), the last being the proportion of the total number of sherds on the site (above p. 219); the percentages fall just short of 100% because the sherds from cutting K1 were included in the calculations but are excluded here because of the lack of stratigraphy in that cutting). The final letter in brackets, where present, indicates the comparable TF at CVL from macroscopic examination alone.

Iron Age Type Pottery (*Fig.* 57)

I: very hard with much surface quartz and large isolated inclusions; thick with rough feel, pale brown surfaces, hand-made. I.A. "A" jar with finger-pinched rim from PH 4. Not thin-sectioned.

II: "corky" appearance and feel resulting from leached-out inclusions, probably calcite; coarse texture, light weight, with colour varying from black/grey to yellowish. Hand-made. Forms represented are mostly jars and bowls either flat-topped or bead rims.

Two sherds were thin-sectioned:—

(i) Quartz, mostly very fine-grained and angular but with a few pieces up to 0.3 mm. across; rare grains of altered feldspar. Matrix dark brown to black, isotropic in patches but with high polarizing aggregate.

(ii) *Angular, altered? feldspar up to 1.5 mm. across, rare quartz, some limonite, all poorly-sorted, are set in a brownish grey, isotropic matrix.

15, 51, 27; 2.5. The 182 sherds look like, and doubtless are in some cases, Iron Age "A" and "B" wares. But the proportion (78%) in "main" and "late" contexts seems too high to be explained simply as disturbance from earlier occupation and there seems every likelihood that this coarse ware continued to be made throughout the Roman period. That it was in use in the later 4th century is virtually certain. Its associations and percentage distribution are, for example, very similar to TF XXVI, and there can be no doubt that the latter is a late Roman product c.f. Star villa, mid-4th century and later (Barton, 1964, p. 79).

III: sometimes with partly "corky" surfaces as TF II, this is characterised by relatively thin walls and white flake-like shelly inclusions. Grey external surfaces. Hand-made. 1 rim of a bowl.

Not thin-sectioned.

55, 36, 0; 0.5. Only 11 sherds have been recognised of what is a late I.A./early R.B. ware.

IV: Really coarse fabric with rounded, granular off-white calcite grits and scattered, often large, quartz inclusions. No leaching, dark grey. Hand-made. Jars and bowls with upright or everted rims, necks rare.

*Abundant grains of calcite with a maximum diameter of 3 mm. ranging down to very fine particles. Quartz rare and fine grained; rare grains of a fine-grained siliceous rock. Dark limonitic patches. The fragments are poorly sorted in a pale to medium brown matrix which is finely crystalline (Dr. Peacock *in litt.* says this can be matched with I.A. pots whose distribution suggests a Mendip source).

67, 23, 5; 4. The most prolific of the "early" fabrics (269 sherds), most of the pots represented belong culturally to I.A. "A", "B" or "C". This is borne out by the percentage distribution which also, by contrast, supports the suggested interpretation of TF II above.

V: Dark grey ware with smooth external finish, superficially with a marked speckled or dusted effect from many very small, evenly distributed, white inclusions of shelly limestone, crushed and lying in the same plane as the pot surface. Wheel-turned. Jars and bowls as TF IV above, but also five everted rim necked bowls or jars, flat-topped rim jars, and foot-ring bases.

*Abundant calcite of maximum diameter 1 mm. in subordinate matrix; calcite is mainly crushed rock and fossil fragments including crinoids. Very little quartz in small grains. Poorly-sorted grains in a pale brown matrix.

52, 41, 3; 2. A very distinctive fabric, represented by pots mainly I.A. "C" in type though almost certainly continuing into the Roman period.

VI: Very fine, hard, burnished ware, buff with smoothed, almost polished, exterior and incised linear decoration. Calcite grits visible in section, though not obviously on surface. Typical "Belgic" forms.

*Calcite in various forms makes up most of this sherd. There are fragments of crinoid ossicles, foraminiferids, rare ooliths, granular limestones, very fine-grained limestones, and calcite plates in pieces ranging from 1.33 mm. downwards. There is a little quartz and some polycrystalline quartz both in very small fragments. The matrix is pale brown; there seems to be little clay material present.

93, 7, 0; 0.5. Its virtual and complete absence from "main" and "late" contexts respectively is a useful check on the validity of the stratigraphical analysis. Clearly a local product and not a "Belgic" import, despite the forms.

Romano-British Type Pottery

Grey wares

Type fabrics VII–IX include the great bulk of grey wares which, after prolonged macroscopic and microscopic examination, could not, it was concluded, be further divided in any meaningful or significant manner. They cover a wide variation in colour from dark

to sandy grey, and have been classified on the basis of the macroscopic amount of quartz grits included. TFs X–XIV are the five fabrics which stand out from the general mass of quartz-gritted grey wares.

VII: hard and smooth, little quartz. Mainly large everted rim jars with curving necks.

Three different-coloured sherds otherwise conforming to this TF definition were thin-sectioned:—

(i) Poorly-sorted angular grains of quartz and polycrystalline quartz fragments up to 0.33 mm. diameter but with much quartz dust. A few limonitic patches. The matrix is more abundant than the filler, is pale brownish grey and is almost isotropic with a few small laths developed.

(ii) Poorly-sorted quartz from rare 0.5 mm. grains down to very fine-grained particles, 1.5 mm. diameter pieces of silty shale, polycrystalline quartz, and some microcline are set in a dark brown to black isotropic matrix.

(iii) Mainly fine-grained quartz fragments with some grains reaching 0.33 mm. in diameter; polycrystalline quartz, rare shaly fragments and odd feldspar grains. The matrix is dark reddish-brown, mainly isotropic but with some high-polarizing aggregate showing a degree of preferred orientation.

6, 59, 30; 15. The similarities of the analyses here, and the differences compared to TFs IX–XIV, indicate that this grey ware is a distinct fabric, distinguishable macroscopically despite a subjective element in the criteria. Late 3rd–4th century in date, the ware is represented by 1,000 + sherds including several "double rims" of the type manufactured at Congresbury (Usher and Lilly, 1964, *Fig.* on p. 173). (P).

VIII: Hard, medium gritty. As TF VII, plus jars with sharply everted neck. Four superficially different sherds representing the range of this TF were thin-sectioned.

(i) 0.5–1 mm., much cracked and broken, poorly-sorted quartz grains, rare polycrystalline quartz grains and feldspar, are set in an isotropic pale grey to grey-brown matrix.

(ii) Much quartz dust with a few grains up to 1 mm. across, rare feldspar and fragments of a fine-grained siliceous rock, are set in a brownish isotropic matrix with some development of high-polarizing aggregates. The specimen is well-banded and there is some preferred orientation of the quartz fragments.

(iii) Abundant, poorly-sorted, grains of quartz ranging in size from 1 mm. downward, the smaller grains being cracked and having a mosaic surface texture; rare sandstone and very fine grained silty rock fragments up to 1.5 mm. Dark brown, isotropic matrix.

(iv) *Quartz grading from 1 mm. downwards with several grains about the 1 mm. range; 1.5 mm. dark brown silty shale fragments; limonitic patches, rare polycrystalline quartz. The matrix is medium brown and well crystalline.

6, 47, 44; 20.5. The last analysis may indicate at least one distinct fabric masked in the 1400 + sherds assigned to this TF, very common on the site, but otherwise the analyses are not significantly different from each other or indeed from those of TF VII, with which it is contemporary though possibly more common in the late occupation. Probably, in view of the similarity of *forms* too, the macroscopic distinction by "roughness" occasioned by the distribution of surface quartz grains, is meaningless. (I, U).

IX: Hard, very rough, with much quartz grit. Everted rim jars with no necks; flat, everted rim bowls; and double-moulded, upright rims (from flagons, bottles?) of Congresbury type.

*Abundant quartz grains, poorly-sorted, with a few at 1 mm. and much quartz dust. Rare microcline and orthoclase; dark brown silty shale fragments and limonitic patches; occasional polycrystalline quartz. The matrix is dark brownish grey and isotropic.

2, 38, 57; 2.5. Here the macroscopic distinction by surface quartz and "roughness", which separates the fabric from TFs VII and VIII, is probably significant since microscopically the fabric is also distinct and, statistically anyway, it is the only ware with markedly increasing proportions from "early" to "late" and with more sherds in late contexts than in early and main combined. Here we seem to have a distinct fabric, used for a limited range of forms in the 4th century and still in production after *c.* 350 A.D. (S).

X: very hard, fine fabric, thin, smooth and with a distinct "metallic" feel and appearance. Slatey blue-grey surface, characteristically "pock-marked" i.e. with explosion pits from high temperatures during manufacture. Mainly everted rim jars.

Fragments of quartz of maximum diameter 0.5 mm., fine grained silica, rare plagioclase feldspar, shaly rock (1 mm.) and limonite. Only the quartz is abundant; it is poorly

sorted and angular. The dark brown matrix material is almost isotropic. The quartz fragments and lath-shaped crystals of the ground mass show a fair degree of preferred orientation.

25, 61, 7; 1. Apparently mainly late 3rd–mid 4th century ware which may have started in late 1st/early 2nd century. This is the same as one of the wares distinguished at the Star villa where it also apparently ceased in the mid-4th century (Barton, 1964, 75, 77, *Figs.* 13, 14). (A).

TFs XI–XIV, in contrast with TF X, all seem to continue in production after the mid-4th century.

XI: fine, soft, thin, very smooth, light grey, without apparent filler. Small, neckless, everted rim jars (some flasks ?); double-moulded rims of Congresbury type.

Two sherds were thin-sectioned: (i) Poorly-sorted, mainly fine-grained quartz, with some grains up to 0.5 mm. across, and some silty rock fragments are subordinate in a greyish brown isotropic matrix.

(ii) Abundant poorly-sorted quartz with maximum diameter 0.33 mm. and much quartz dust, rare fragments of plagioclase feldspar, polycrystalline quartz, shale and limonite. The matrix is reddish brown and well crystalline with new lath-shaped crystals forming and giving rise to a high-polarizing aggregate under crossed polars.

3, 63, 33; 1.5. A late 3rd/4th century ware, more distinctive macroscopically than microscopically though the differences in the matrices may indicate two wares. (E).

XII: very hard, with close, even, minute dark-speckled surface with quartz grits giving rough texture; rather a "stone-ware" appearance and feel, very light blue-grey. A flanged bowl and small everted rim jars alone are present.

Angular slivers of quartz grading downwards from 0.5 mm. across, rare dark shaly fragments, limonite patches and odd grains of potash feldspar are set in a pale to dark brown matrix which is isotropic in patches but has areas of high-polarizing aggregates.

6, 48, 46; 0.5. An infrequent fabric, apparently continuing throughout the 4th century. (I).

XIII: softish, with larger (than XII), rather irregular, scattered dark mottling; very light grey. No rims; sherds suggest large, flat-bottomed jars.

Fragments are mainly fine-grained quartz, polycrystalline quartz and silty shale with some pieces reaching 1.5 mm. across. Some patches of the pale brown matrix are entirely quartz free, perhaps because of poor mixing. Dark brown to black concentric patches, isotropic with some preferred orientation of fine-grained laths.

0, 53, 45; 0.5. (G).

XIV: "slab-like" with extensive pock-marking and blackish mottling; very smooth, thick, whiteish fabric. Only thick, large jars are represented.

Two sherds were thin-sectioned: (i) Poorly-sorted quartz grading from 0.33 mm. downwards, limonite-cemented sandstones, and shale fragments are set in a pale brown, finely crystalline matrix. The temper is subordinate and the whole is poorly mixed with patches having no temper and others having a flowy texture.

(ii) Very fine-grained quartz with rare grains reaching 0.33 mm.; sharp, cracked, angular poorly-sorted fragments. Matrix is pale grey to colourless, mainly isotropic with some high-polarizing aggregate scattered throughout.

9, 43, 44; 1. (W).

A sample (86 sherds) from the kiln waste at Venus Street, Congresbury, was kindly made available by the North Somerset Arch. Rsch. Grp. and compared macroscopically with the above TF series. 23 sherds fitted into TF VII, 8 into TF VIII, 37 into ?TF X, and 18 into TF XI. Since TF IX and XI also contain typical double-moulded Congresbury rims, it seems likely that most of the grey ware was being obtained locally.

A sherd was taken at random from the Congresbury sample and thin-sectioned:—

Poorly-sorted quartz with some grains 0.3 mm. across but mostly much less; polycrystalline quartz; rare grains of microcline, plagioclase, shale, and limonite-cemented sandstone. Several grains of epidote. Curious concentric limonitic structures about

0.5 mm. across. Matrix pale brown and isotropic with a fair preferred orientation of the inequidimensional grains.

One thin-section is obviously not conclusive, and a whole run of analyses of the Congresbury material and indeed of the local clays is needed for useful comparisons. In general, however, the fabric analysed is not unlike TFs VI, VIII, and X, but the presence of epidote, a distinctive heavy mineral otherwise only recognised in TF XIV, may be significant.

Black wares

XV: Micaceous, very fine-grained, well-levigated fabric with even distribution of equal-sized grains; thin-walled, smooth ,black/dove-grey/buff. (Cf. TFs XIX, XXVII). Small, necked, everted rim jars and, probably, bowls; one flanged rim bowl; footring bases.

*Abundant, well-sorted, very fine-grained quartz 0.1 mm. or less across with odd grains 0.33 mm. in diameter set in a pale grey isotropic matrix with many rounded limonitic patches.

20, 47, 29; 3. A fabric which appears to run right through the RB period, though the forms, where deducible, mainly suggest a late 3rd/4th century date. (N/V).

XVI: black-burnished ware, with whole or partial burnishing, obtuse angled lattices etc.; quartz grits on surface give coarse texture where burnish not applied or abraded; mostly dark grey/black everted and "cavetto" rim cooking pots, pie-dishes, flanged bowls, platters etc.

Two sherds were thin-sectioned.

(i) *Abundant, fairly well-sorted quartz grains about 1 mm. across, shale fragments and polycrystalline quartz particles are set in a dark brown/black matrix which is well crystalline. The fibrous matrix wraps round the quartz grains and in places has recrystallised to form micaceous crystals up to 1.5 mm. long.

(ii) *Abundant, well-sorted, quartz grains from 0.5–1.5 mm. across and with surface cracks; some fine grained silty rock fragments. Matrix brown and well crystalline showing a high-polarizing aggregate.

5, 57, 31; 27. The commonest ware on the site (*c.* 1850 sherds), belonging to the late 3rd and 4th centuries c.f. Star villa (Barton, 1964, 75, *Fig.* 13, where all the forms illustrated are also represented at Butcombe). (Not apparently represented in CVL TF series).

XVII: Very hard, fairly coarse fabric, full of large inclusions of grit, flint, quartz, fossil; fairly thin, whiteish, sometimes with black-burnished exterior (variant of TF XVI, and closely related to TF XVIII). Probably same range of forms as TF XVI, though only 1 rim, of a flanged bowl, is present.

*Well-sorted quartz grains 0.33 mm. across, rare feldspar, shale, polycrystalline quartz fragments, and grains of iron ore are set in a dark brown to black isotropic matrix which is much subordinate to temper.

0, 70, 29; 1.5. Perhaps confined to the period late-3rd/mid-4th century alone, this very distinctive fabric may well be a (non-local ?) copy of black-burnished ware proper (TF XVI). (Not at CVL).

XVIII: Very hard, full of fine quartz grit only (c.f. XVII for contrast); fairly thin, usually with black exterior and white/brownish interior with "speckled" appearance, sometimes burnished (variant of XVI and closely related to XVII). No rims present, but body sherds suggest jars and bulbous bowls.

*Well-sorted fragments *c.* 0.5 mm. across of dominant quartz with some plagioclase, hornblende, biotite, and polycrystalline quartz, are set in a brown, well-crystalline matrix with some recrystallized patches of micaceous minerals up to 1.5 mm. across.

4, 55, 37; 2.

XIX: micaceous, sandy "biscuit" ware, well-levigated, less sparkling than XV, and coarser and darker than XXVII; slightly gritty surface characterised by minute pittings, wide colour range from black to buff. Small jars and perhaps bulbous bowls.

Abundant, fairly well-sorted quartz, *c.* 0.33 mm. across, and much-cracked on the surface, is set with several grains of microcline in a very dark brown isotropic matrix.

21, 43, 32; 1. (T).

Thick coarse wares

XX: Very thick (av. 1.5 cms.) and evenly fired, with large quartz and some limestone inclusions; surface often smooth, black-cream colouring. Large, thick, everted rim (storage ?) jars.

*Abundant, poorly-sorted, quartz with some surface cracking and grains 0.33 mm. downwards. Very fine-grained silty rock fragments up to 3.5 mm. across and whiteish in hand specimen. Rare silty-shale fragments. The matrix is pale brown and well crystalline; in places the materials are poorly mixed giving an irregular overall texture.

56, 39, 15; 1. Iron Age fabrics apart, this is the only TF of "conventional" R.B. ware with proportions in descending order from "early" to "late", and there seems little doubt that it is primarily a 1st/2nd century fabric, a view supported by the markedly different proportions of the similar but so far less numerous TF XXI which may well have replaced it. (J).

XXI: thick (av. 7–8 mm.), coarse, with smaller and more evenly distributed inclusions (than XX), including much quartz and larger ooliths; surface usually rough, varying from red to grey. Large jars.

Two sherds were thin-sectioned:—

(i) *Abundant, cracked quartz grains from 1 mm. downwards; a few shale fragments and rounded limonitic grains; rare limonite-cemented sandstone fragments. The matrix is dark grey and isotropic with a trace of preferred orientation of particles. (c.f. matrix of TFs VIII and IX).

(ii) Quartz grains range from 0.2 mm. across down to abundant very fine-grained particles; rare fine-grained silty rock fragments 1 mm. across and limonite-cemented sandstone are set in a pale grey, isotropic matrix.

3, 73, 24; 0.5. Similar in appearance and form to TF XX, it perhaps replaced it in function in the late 3rd/4th century. If so, the change to a rougher fabric at that time is perhaps paralleled in the grey wares e.g. TF IX. (Y).

Reddish wares

XXII: Hard, fine-grained fabric, with distinctive overall glitter of flat surface flakes on thin, orange-red ware. Small jars.

*Abundant quartz grains about 0.25 mm. across grading down to dust; rare altered feldspar and fresh microcline grains; several 2 mm. fragments of limonite-cemented, angular, sandstones. The matrix is foxy reddish-brown, well crystalline and shows good preferred orientation of the high polarizing aggregate (the sandstone is like that in Iron Age pots from the S.W. and is ?Old Red Sandstone in origin—information from Dr. Peacock *in litt*).

0, 88, 12; 0.5. A rare, apparently late 3rd/mid-4th century, fabric.

XXIII: soft, no obvious inclusions except occasional mica; very smooth, red-orange. Small, everted rim, neckless bowls and jars; 1 pedestal base.

Scattered quartz fragments, 0.66 mm. downwards, cracked, angular and poorly-sorted, are set in a reddish brown matrix which is well crystalline and shows a trace of preferred orientation. Some limonite patches.

10, 50, 39; 1.5. Not a very distinctive fabric which may have begun early though clearly mainly of late 3rd/4th century production. (K).

XXIV: soft, with smooth lighter and/or darker inclusions; thin-walled, orange-buff. Globular flanged and bead-rim bowls, small everted rim jars; pedestal bases.

Quartz, much of it very fine grained but with a few grains up to 0.5 mm. across, and rare microcline fragments are set in a pale brown, isotropic matrix with dark brown limonite patches.

6, 44, 45; 1. Clearly one of the fabrics continuing after *c.* 350 A.D. (L).

XXV: hard, with very small dark inclusions giving a speckled appearance; fairly thin, red/buff/cream colour range. Small everted and beaded rim jars and bowls, one curved wall platter; pedestal bases.

Two sherds were thin-sectioned:—

(i) *A few grains of polycrystalline quartz are 3 mm. across but the majority are very fine grained; there is much more matrix than temper. Matrix is a brownish red with abundant high-polarizing aggregate showing well crystalline patches (c.f. TFs XXII and XXIII for matrix).

(ii) Abundant quartz all less than 0.05 mm. across, and rare feldspar, are set in a red brown partly crystalline matrix with some preferred orientation of the laths.

3, 63, 31; 1. (Q/X).

XXVI: hard, superficially mottled in orange and grey with much fine quartz grit on surface; thin, rough orange/grey (much thinner variant of VII and VIII). Small, everted rim jars; one double-moulded rim of "Congresbury" type.

Poorly-sorted quartz grains, with many at about 0.5 mm. across, show some cracking

of the surface; a few fresh microcline fragments up to 0.5 mm. The matrix is dark brown, isotropic and is more abundant than the temper.

1, 59, 39; 1.5. (L).

XXVII: very fine, well-levigated fabric with slight micaceous glitter (coarser and less micaceous than TF XV, but finer-grained than TF XIX); usually thin, smooth, brown/buff. Everted rim jars, some widely splayed, flat bases.

Two sherds were thin-sectioned:—

(i) Abundant quartz, well-sorted with most of the grains at about 0.1 mm. across but with a few up to 0.25 mm., rare feldspar and some limonite are set in a brown isotropic matrix.

(ii) Poorly-sorted quartz grains from 0.5 mm. across downwards, feldspar, shale and polycrystalline quartz fragments are set in a dark brown, isotropic matrix.

17, 50, 33; 1.5. There are perhaps two fabrics masked in this TF, indicated by the micro-differences in the quartz grain sorting and sizes, and in the superficially meaningless proportions of the ware stratigraphically. The rim forms indicate a late Roman date. (O).

XXVIII: hard red ware with large inclusions, medium thickness, rough coarse feel. Jars, one everted rim only, flat bases. Not thin-sectioned.

0, 30, 55; 0.5. A rare, perhaps solely 4th century, ware, again markedly coarse (c.f. TFs IX and XXI).

XXIX: Samian (terra sigillata). Dr. forms 18/31, 32 and 37 are probably represented.

*Quartz, in very fine grained fragments, is rare. The abundant matrix is red brown and isotropic.

The paucity of samian on the site is its real significance, chronologically, and, perhaps, socially. About 50 sherds at most have so far been found, but most are so small and abraded that in many cases it is difficult to be certain that they are not imitation wares (and *vice versa*). The recognisable sherds date from the mid-1st century to the Antonine period.

XXX: imitation samian.

Quartz, ranging from 0.1 mm. to quartz dust, and microcline fragments are set in a red-brown matrix which is well crystalline and has scattered limonite patches.

0, 71, 29; 0.5. The proportions are what might be expected on the site, though the number is small and not statistically valid. Again, the significance is in its paucity (c.f. TF XXIX). Although some doubt attaches to the identification of sherds at present in TFs XXIX and XXX, clearly the sherds thin-sectioned are different. (F).

XXXI: mortaria, classified as a separate fabric because of its large internal surface grits, though in other respects some examples are similar to other TFs.

Angular, poorly-sorted fragments of quartz grading downwards from 0.2 mm. are set in a colourless to pale brown, isotropic matrix.

0, 71, 29; 0.5.

XXXII: colour-coated wares. All small vessels, including flanged globular bowl and small flasks.

Mainly very fine-grained quartz, with one or two up to 0.5 mm. across, are set in a brownish matrix which is predominantly isotropic but has some degree of crystallinity.

0, 74, 13; 1. Again, significant by their paucity—there were insufficient to sort within the TF and most are very abraded in any case. (z).

V *Iron Objects* (*Fig.* 56)

None of the iron-work is of intrinsic interest except:—

No. 8: Small bow brooch with flat, round-ended wings and a flattened, expanded catch-plate. Found in soil immediately above bedrock and covered by tumble from N. wall of Building AI.

No. 9: Tethering-ring, hinged on to a pointed iron shank, the point of which as been bent over, probably when knocked into position. Found on floor paving immediately at the foot of the inner face of the N. wall of Building AI, sealed by tumble.

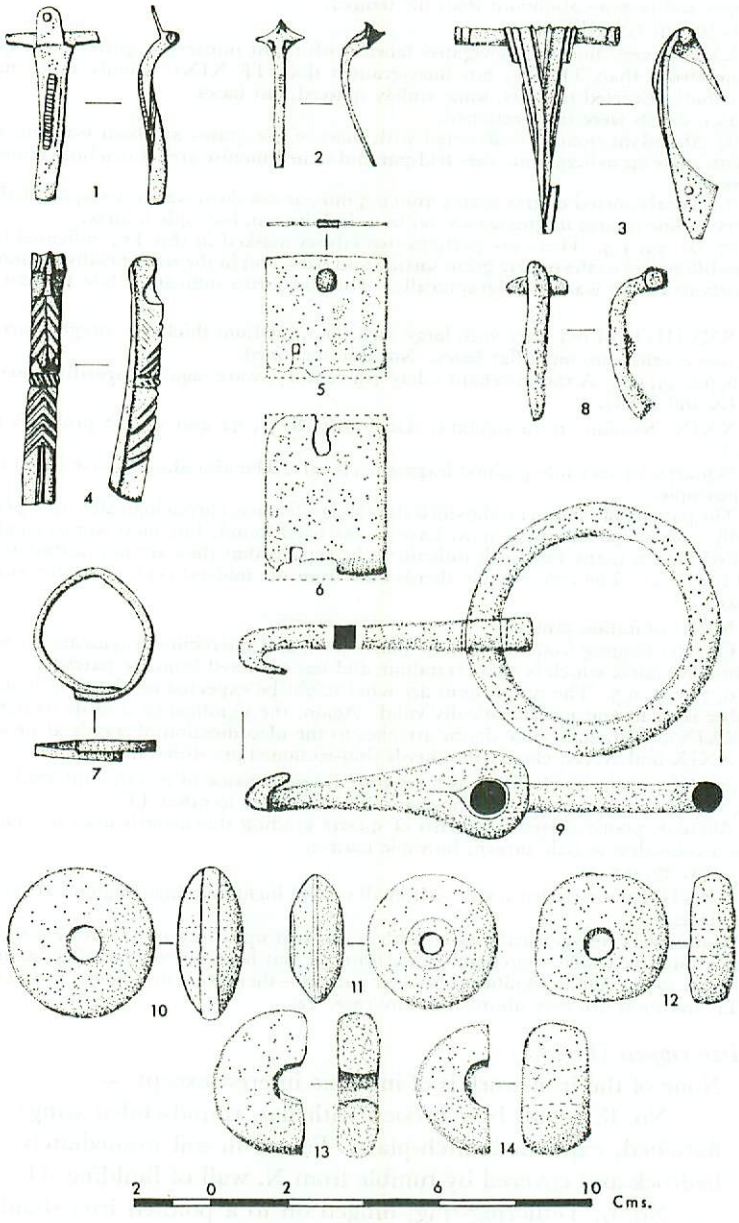

Fig. 56. Metal objects and spindle-whorls: 1–7, bronze (pp. 231–2); 8–9, iron (p. 227); 10–11, shale; 12, 14, sandstone; 13, fired clay.

(All ½, except 4–7 which 1/1).

The rest of the iron-work is meagre and on the whole poorly preserved. Two iron hinge pins occurred by the entrance to Building AI; but

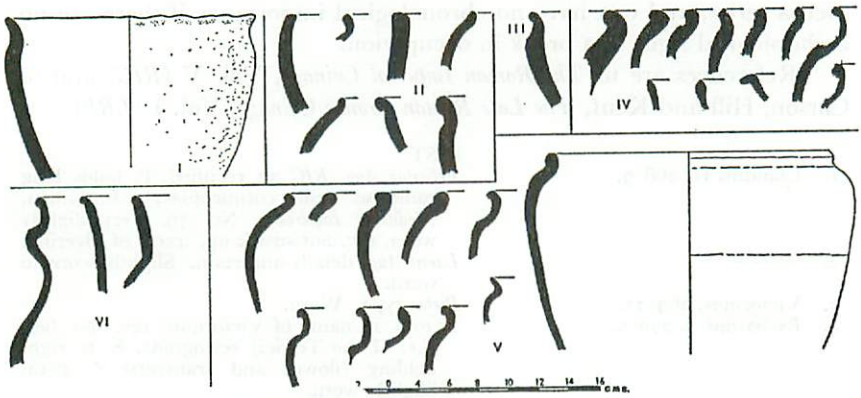

Fig. 57. Pottery forms of Type Fabrics I–VI (Iron Age types, *see* pp. 221–2). Scale 1/5.

otherwise, apart from a few rings and one or two basic tools such as a punch and bits of knives, nails were the only type of iron object to occur in any quantity. They have been classified into 5 types:—

(i) Narrow, square-headed, square sectioned, long and short (172 examples).
(ii) Square-sectioned with large, flat head (8).
(iii) Short with asymmetrical heads (20).
(iv) Round-sectioned, no heads (28).
(v) Square-sectioned, domed heads (45).

83 broken nails, all with square sections, were also recorded but cannot be ascribed with certainty to one of these types though probably most are types (i) and (v). Most of the nails occurred along both sides of the walls of Building AI, often in the tumble, and were presumably used in the timber superstructure. Very few are bent, indicating that the building was not demolished but allowed to collapse.

In addition, 18 small, square-sectioned dome-headed (shoe?) studs and 12 double-pronged shoe/sandal segs were found.

VI *The Coins.* George C. Boon, F.R.N.S.

VI *The Coins*

Of the twenty-seven coins, thirteen are contemporary imitations. This proportion is not uncommon, particularly in rural sites far from the main stream of communications and from towns, at the period concerned, viz. in the third to fourth centuries. It would seem that occupation began about A.D. 270–75, to judge from the number of "radiates" and large imitations thereof; and that it came to an end by 350 or even before, since there are only two coins of the period 341–6. The denominations represented are throughout the smallest, i.e. base *antoniniani* and copies, and

small *folles* and copies. The larger and more valuable reformed *antoniniani* of the period 274 onward, and the larger *folles* of the tetrarchy and of the earlier years of Constantine, are not present; but this is not unexpected in such a series, and can have no chronological importance if there are no archæological signs of a break in occupation.

References are to *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, Vol. V (*RIC*) and to Carson, Hill and Kent, *The Late Roman Bronze Coinage*, Vol. I (*LRBC*).

LIST

1.	Claudius II, 268–9.	*Felicitas Aug*, *RIC* 32 rectified, F. holds long caduceus and cornucopiae, c.f. Cohen, *Médailles Impériales*, No. 79. Very slightly worn, rev. not struck up, traces of silvering.
2.	———	*Laetit Aug*, details uncertain. Slightly worn to worn.
3.	Victorinus, 269–71.	*Pietas* type. Worn.
4.	Barbarous, *c.* 270–5.	17 mm. in name of Victorinus; rev. *Spes Augg* (i.e. of the Tetrici) retrograde, S. to right holding ?flower and transverse ? spera. Slightly worn.
5.	———	17 mm. in name of Tetricus I; rev. *Pietas*. Slightly worn or worn.
6.	———	19 mm. in name of Tetricus I, carefully literate obv.; rev. *Pax*, almost anepigraphic. Worn.
7.	———	17 mm. in name of Tetricus I; rev. *Victoria*, nonsense legend. Slightly worn.
8.	———	15 mm. in name of Tetricus II; rev. *Providentia*. Not worn.
9.	———	18 mm. rev. perhaps *Pax* (reversed). Worn.
10.	Barbarous, *c.* 275–80.	12 mm. rev. *Invictus*. Defaced.
11.	———	*c.* 12 mm. (fragments). Worn?
12.	Carausius, 286–93.	*Pax Aug* (transverse sceptre) type. Details uncertain. Worn or much worn.
13.	———	Same type, probably early irregular issue. 21 mm., corners cut off. Slightly worn?
	Constantinian, by reverse type:—	
14.	*Providentiae Caess*, 324–30.	Constantius II. *LRBC* 40, PTRE (Trier). Slightly worn?
15.	*Gloria Exercitus* (2 standards), 330–5.	Constantine II. *LRBC* 63, TR.S (Trier). Unworn.
16.	———	Constantine I. *LRBC* 357, PCONST (Arles). Almost unworn.
17.	———	Copy, 12 mm. Defaced.
18.	*Gloria Exercitus* (1 standard), 335–7.	Constantine I. *LRBC* 92, .TRP. (Trier). Slightly worn.
19.	*Gloria Exercitus* (1 standard), 337–41.	Constantine II. *LRBC* 241, $\frac{\text{☧}}{\text{SLC}}$ (Lyon). Slightly worn to worn.
20.	———	Constantius II. Defaced.
21.	———	Copy, or defaced official issue of Trier.
22.	*Constantinopolis*, 330–5.	Copy, 13 mm. Defaced.
23.	———	Copy, 12 mm. "*Urbs Roma*" obv. Slightly worn.
24.	———	Copy, 11 mm. "emperor" obv. Unworn or slightly worn.
25.	*Pietas Romana*, 337–41.	Theodora. Fragment, probably a copy.
26.	*Victoriae Dd. Auggq. Nn.*, 341–6.	Constans. Obverse brockage. Very slightly worn.
27.	———	Constantius II or Constans. Defaced, perhaps only slightly worn.

Comments: all the coins fall in the "main" occupation, using the same criteria as for the other material (above p. 214). Three (1, 24, 26) were actually on the upper floor of Building AI, and one (13) was under a stone of the fragmentary lower floor. It was, however, right against the inner face of the E. wall, and could easily have slipped down between that and a flag-stone of either or both of the two floors. No. 11 was also in Building AI but was unstratified. Nos. 15 and 19 were under the tumble from the Building, while ten coins (5, 6, 7, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27) were in the tumble. Four (2, 10, 14, 23) were on the upper level of cobbling outside the W. end of the Building and one (18) was in the lower cobbling in the same area.

Nos. 3, 4 and 9 were close together on the top of the line of the drain from the E. end of Building AI and beneath both the rubbish and the tumble from the wall of Enclosure A. No. 8 was in the tumble from the same wall on the north; No. 12 was unstratified in cutting K1.

The evidence indicates fairly clearly that the building of the stone structures took place probably in the 270s or 280s. The two coins (15 and 19), unworn and slightly worn respectively, beneath the tumble from Building AI suggest that it was still standing in the 330s but that it was falling down in the 340s. The coins in the tumble, and the slightly worn coin (26) on the remaining upper floor support this interpretation.

VII *Bronze Objects* (*Fig.* 56)

1. *Hinged bow brooch.* Pin and catch-plate missing; bow twisted, pin axis bar cast in plain cylindrical wings. A flat plate with rounded head and circular hole projects from the junction of bow and wings. Centrally on the bow is a longitudinal ridge, nicked at intervals to give a beaded appearance. No trace of the catch-plate remains, and the original end of the bow may have been removed in antiquity.

This type of brooch appears to be confined to S.-W. England, all known examples being hinged, with a pierced head-plate, longitudinal moulding on the bow, and, usually, a moulded bow terminal. The pierced head-plate is derived from brooches such as the earlier head-studs via the skeuomorph form (as from Caerwent, Nashe-Williams, 1930, 239, *Fig.* 2.1). Related examples occur at Catsgore (Radford, 1951, 66, *Fig.* 5. c), Shepton Mallet (Museum), Cold Kitchen Hill (Devizes Museum 987), and Cirencester (Corinium Museum, C.191). The type is not closely dated, however, the range for this example probably being *c.* 75 into the 2nd century A.D.

Found between stones of highest "cobble" layer outside N.-W. corner of Building AI.

2. *Bow brooch,* much abraded, with short, pointed wings, and similar

projections outwards and downwards from the head. Slight traces of horizontal marks on bow.

Weathered out of section 1 (*Fig.* 54, 1) during winter 1967–8, probably from one of layers 3–5.

3. *Hinged bow brooch.* The pin axis bar appears to have been cast in position; wings almost circular in section, with double moulding at each end. The bow is elaborately moulded with paired, converging crested ridges. The breaks in the outer moulding, which give an expanded appearance to the head, were apparently cast. The catch-plate is complete.

The multiple mouldings and expanded head effect are the distinctive features. Similar brooches occur at, for example, Camerton (Wedlake, 1958, 219, *Fig.* 50, 10), Kingsdown Camp, Mells (Gray, 1930, 82, *Fig.* 5, E.41), Cirencester (Corinium Museum A 272) and Verulamium (Lowther, 1937, 37, *Fig.* 2.1). The distribution of what was a popular type is mainly in the S.W., with a date range from *c.* 60–80/90 A.D.

Found immediately above the highest "cobble" layer just outside the S. part of the W. wall of Building AI.

4. *Armlet or bracelet terminal,* in the form of an elongated animal (ram / serpent) head. The piece is slightly curved with a flat underside. In the upper surface and down the sides are two sets of V-sectioned, V-shaped incisions, separated by a diagonally incised collar. The incisions furthest from the end meet in the centre of the slightly rounded top, and the last V joins two narrow, parallel incisions running off down the spine; while the incisions nearest the end narrow towards the centre where they are separated by a single narrow incised line. The end itself is fashioned with hollowed "eyes" and curvilinear "nostrils" separated by a hollowed ridge. Slight parallel scratches occur on one of the flat sides.

This appears to be the terminal of a spiral armlet or bracelet of the type well-known from the Snailwell cremation burial, Cambridge (Fox, 1958, 81, *Plate* 53, B for illustration and discussion). Similar objects and ornaments also occur far from the main "Belgic" area (e.g. at Culbin Sands, Scotland, Thomas, 1961, 38, *Plate* 1, upper; c.f. generally, Ross, 1967, Ch. VII). Fox, *supra,* comments on the use of incised lines as a "late Belgic ornament", though the general shape of the head is very similar to that on many Type D and E "zoomorphic" penannular brooches (Fowler, E., 1960, 149–77 and 1963, 98–160). Of itself, the piece is likely to be of pre-Conquest manufacture, probably in the first half of the 1st century A.D.; but in its context here, it cannot be taken as certain evidence of pre-Conquest occupation. It nevertheless is strong evidence for mid-1st century A.D. occupation.

Found in layer 4, section 1 (*Fig.* 54).

5, 6. *Two scales* of a cuirass, found with a third (broken scale not illustrated). Almost exactly the same size as the individual scales in the cuirass (*lorica*) from Ham Hill (Haverfield, 1906, *Fig.* 63; Webster, 1958, 80, No. 105, *Plate* XI, C), and presumably of the Conquest period.

Found in layer 3, section 1 (*Fig.* 54).

7. *Spiral finger-ring*, made from a flattened strip oblong in section ("ribbon ring"). A common type in Southern England often in late pre-Roman Iron Age contexts (e.g. Wheeler, 1943, *Fig.* 86, 10, is a close parallel; and at Meare West (Gray and Bulleid, 1953, *Plate* XLVIII; see also *P.S.A.S.* LXXXIV, 1949–50, 131–2 and *U.J.A.* X, 1957, 79–81), as well as of Roman date.

Found inside Building AI in the tumble from N. wall.

VIII *Bones*

1. *Human*

Three foetal bones have been noted: parts of a skull, a humerus and a radius.

2. *Animal*

Bones occurred scattered over much of the site, the only concentrations being in the top of P1 (*Fig.* 54, section 1), in the midden at the angle of walls 3 and 7 (*Fig.* 52B), and in cutting K1 behind the enclosure wall (*Fig.* 54, section 4). The bulk of the material is very fragmentary and few pieces were suitable for comparative mensuration. Nearly 1,000 fragments plus *c.* 600 loose teeth have nevertheless been identified, distributed as follows:—

*Table 1**

Bones	Occupation Early	Main	Late	Overall
Sheep	48	51	49	50
Ox	48	47	46	47
Pig	2	1	1	1
Horse	1	1	3	1

Table 2

Teeth				
Sheep	78	76	62	74
Ox	12	16	29	18
Pig	2	2	1	2
Horse	8	6	8	6

* *Note:* Quantities in columns 1–3 are a percentage of the total number of identified bones and teeth in each occupation phase; and in column 4 a percentage of the total number of bones and teeth respectively.

Fragments of long bones and metapodials predominate; mandibular fragments are also well-represented, but scapulæ and pelvic bones are rare.

Sheep: the bones are smaller than those of modern sheep in Somerset. 44 and 24 bones respectively were from immature and foetal animals. One bone showed butcher's marks, and 10 were burnt.

Ox: probably all the bones are from *Bos longifrons*, of which there was one certain horn core. Twelve bones bore butcher's marks and 9 were burnt. Seven were from immature animals.

Pig: the bones are comparable in size with the domesticated animal. Three bones are from immature animals.

Horse: represented by 11 bones only.

In addition, the following were represented by a single bone or a small number of bones: dog, hare, fox, bat, vole, small rodent, and bird. There is also 1 vertebral centrum of a fish.

Teeth

Since the bones were too fragmentary to determine the number of animals represented and their age and sex, an attempt has been made to deduce from the teeth, the age and number of sheep, ox, pig and horse. The age is only an approximation based on the supposed age at which the various teeth erupt (Miller and Robertson, 1937) and the amount of attrition of each tooth.

Of the maximum of 88 *sheep* represented, 18 (20%) were between 3–6 months old at death, 56 (63%) were in their second year, and 14 (17%) were more than 2 years old.

About 100 *ox teeth* were examined from this point of view, representing some 50 animals. Only 6 teeth indicated death earlier than 1½ years old, while 15 came from each of the age groups 2–6 years old, "mature" and "aged".

Only 14 *pig teeth* were available: 8 indicated death at an age between 6–18 months, while 1 was from an "aged" animal.

25 *horse teeth*, representing 18 animals, were examined: 2 indicated death at about 1 year, 9 between 2–6 years, 5 at about 11 years and 2 older still.

The numbers of teeth are too small to consider them chronologically on the basis of their provenances to see if there are any significant changes in numbers, proportions and age of death of the animals.

Discussion

On the assumption that the bones and teeth are mainly food refuse from animals belonging to the settlement, then the evidence indicates a mixed agricultural economy with sheep being kept in perhaps slightly larger numbers than ox. The former were kept for meat and probably wool and breeding; they were eaten while young; while the latter, though undoubtedly eaten, first lived what was presumably a useful working life as draught animals. Although the numbers of bones of both sheep and ox are similar, they represent a much greater amount of meat from oxen, so presumably beef, perhaps often tough, was eaten more frequently than tender lamb. Only the less favourable cuts of meat are represented, hinting perhaps that part of the site's livelihood was obtained by selling the best cuts elsewhere. This would accord with the other evidence for the low material standard of life on the site, as so far revealed.

Pig was also killed young, but it looks as if pork was a rarity. Horses may well have assisted the oxen as draught animals before they too were slaughtered and eaten as an infrequent contribution to the meat diet. Overall, there seems to have been little change in the livestock economy of the settlement throughout its life.

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Postscript on the 1968 excavations: a further fortnight's excavation since the above was written has confirmed many of the points made and added much detail. The stratigraphy and outline chronology (above p. 214) has been filled out with much more evidence of pre-Roman Iron Age settlement including a probable circular timber building (Phase 1b) and another rock-cut depression, probably a shallow quarry, with a La Tène III brooch in its lower filling (Phase 1c). Another Phase 3 stone structure was found built into the collapse from the Phase 2 wall between Enclosures B and C (*Fig.* 52B).

All the pottery was sorted on the site using the above type fabric series (p. 221) and only a small proportion (less than 5%) did not fit into the defined types. With much more pottery from Phases 1 and 3 to examine than hitherto, TF IV has been confirmed as the common type of Iron Age pottery on the site, TF III is rare, and TF II is beginning to look as if it is a specifically late (Phase 3) ware.

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